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SUBJECT: HOW GAMBARI SEES HIS UPCOMING TRIP TO BURMA

REF: USUN 728

Classified By: Ambassador Wolff, Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) During a meeting on August 13, UN Special Advisor Ibrahim Gambari (protect) provided Ambassador Wolff with a copy of the confidential letter from Secretary-General Ban to Indian Prime Minister Singh. In the letter, SYG Ban expressed his intention to return to Burma later in the year "provided conditions are right" and notified the Prime Minister that he would send Gambari to Burma "as frequently and for as long as necessary" in order to advance the objectives of the good offices mandate. According to Gambari, Ban also sent similar messages to China and Russia.

¶2. (C) Gambari said that through the letter, SYG Ban highlighted four areas for tangible results, including: "resumption of an enhanced dialogue between the Myanmar Government and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (ASSK); consideration of the proposal to establish a broad-based national mechanism to address socio-economic concerns, especially in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis; consideration of ways to enhance the credibility of the process leading to elections by 2010; and consideration of ways to further regularize and facilitate the good offices mission." Ban asked the recipients of the letter to press the Burmese regime to ensure Gambari's next visit "makes concrete progress." Gambari will also add as a fifth point -- release of political prisoners and ASSK.

¶3. (C) Ambassador Wolff told Gambari that his visit must produce significant movement on the political track. Without progress, he commented, countries may be less inclined to provide reconstruction aid. Gambari agreed and, regarding the economic initiatives, added that he will propose that ASSK and her chosen advisors help to lead the national mechanism to address socio-economic concerns. Gambari confirmed that he expected to meet with ASSK during his visit, in addition to Prime Minister Thein Sein. Gambari was not confident, however, that he would meet with Senior General Than Shwe. Amb Wolff reminded Gambari that the Security Council would expect a briefing upon his return, adding that the Council closely followed the issue and could provide leverage for Gambari and the good offices mission.  
Khalilzad